

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-18 (Cancelled)

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A water-based composition comprising components A, B and C:

(A) component A is at least one member selected from the group consisting of chitosan, a derivative thereof, and an acid salt thereof; wherein said derivative is a reaction product obtained by carboxylating, glycolizing, tosylating, sulfating, phosphatizing, etherifying or alkylating at least one group selected from the group consisting of a hydroxyl group and amino group of chitosan; and

(B) component B is a metal compound comprising at least one metal selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, Hf, Mo, W, Se, Ce, Fe, V and trivalent Cr, and

component C is an organic compound, wherein said organic compound is at least of selected from the group consisting of a tribasic acid, a tetrabasic acid, and a pentabasic acid.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The water-based composition of Claim 19, wherein said wherein said chitosan (A) is obtained by ~~subjected~~ subjecting chitin to 60 to 100% mole % deacetylation.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The water-based composition of Claim 19, wherein said ~~metal compound~~ component (B) is a metal oxide or hydroxide.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The water-based composition of Claim 19, wherein said ~~metal compound~~ component (B) is an organic acid salt or inorganic acid salt.

Claim 23 (Cancelled)

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The water-based composition of Claim 19, wherein
said component C is at least one selected from the group consisting of citric acid,
butanetricarboxylic acid, propanetricarboxylic acid, trimellitic acid,
ethylenediaminetetracarboxylic acid, 1,2,3,4-butanetetracarboxylic acid,
diethylentriaminepentaacetate, tannic acid and phytic acid ~~further comprising (C) an organic~~
~~compound having at least one carboxyl group.~~

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): A substrate treatment method comprising:
coating a substrate material, which is to be treated, at a surface thereof with the water-
based composition of ~~claim~~ Claim 19,
optionally rinsing the surface of the ~~material~~ substrate with water subsequent to said
coating, and
heating and drying said ~~material~~ substrate in a temperature range of from 80°C to
300°C;
wherein
a dry coat weight of said component A to said surface of said treated substrate is in a
range of from 1 to 500 mg/m² calculated as chitosan; and a dry coat weight of said
component B to said surface of said treated substrate is in a range of from 1 to 500 mg/m²
calculated as said metal.

Claim 26 (Cancelled)

Response to Official Action of January 11, 2007

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): A coated metal comprising:

a metal substrate, wherein said metal substrate is aluminum, magnesium, copper, iron, zinc, nickel, or an alloy thereof; and

a coating[[;]], wherein said coating has been formed by applying to said metal substrate the water-based composition of Claim 19.

Claims 28-39 (Cancelled)